REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12-14, 17, 18, 20, 22-28, 30-32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, and 43-45are pending in this application, with Claims 2, 20, 38, 39, 41, and 43-45being independent. Claims 1, 3, 11, 15, 16, 19, 21, 29, 33, 34, 37, 40, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 20, 22, 35, 36, 38, 39, and 41 have been amended, and new Claims 43-45 have been added. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure. No new matter has been added.

A new title and abstract have been presented. Favorable consideration are requested.

Claims 1, 3-16, and 19-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,557,017 (Venable) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,563 (Kawamoto et al.) and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0005045 (Tanimoto). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 2, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature wherein an image trimming processing module executes a trimming processing prior to execution of any of a flipping processing, a rotation processing, and an image

aspect ratio maintaining processing. Claim 20 is a corresponding method claim and Claim 38 is a corresponding storage medium claim.

As recited in independent Claim 39, the present invention includes, among others, the feature of control means for selecting a trimming command for execution in preference to other commands read by reading means regardless of the order of inputting the commands in the reading means. Claim 41 is a corresponding method claim.

As recited in independent Claim 43, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of a specifying unit that specifies a trimming command from among image data attributes regardless of the order in which the attributes have been written, so as to execute the trimming command in preference to the other commands. Claim 44 is a corresponding method claim, and Claim 45 is a corresponding storage medium claim.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Venable discloses executing rotation, trimming, and enlarging/reducing processes. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest that the trimming process should be given preference so that it is executed prior to the other processes. None of the other cited art remedies this deficiency of Venable. Kawamoto et al. merely discloses modifying draw data or characters into a layered structure and storing them, and Tanimoto et al. merely discloses embedding TIFF data into a tagged document and setting a display resolution. Accordingly, none of the cited art, considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests giving preference to the trimming process.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over the art of record. The dependent claims are

patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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